



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## **Senior Affairs Advisory Board (SAAB)**

### **Minutes**

### **Wednesday, September 7, 2005**

Meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. by Chairperson Pat Ford.

**Members Present:** John Patrick Ford, Dolli Cutler, Sam Duran, Leane Marchese, Floyd Willis, Cheryl Wilson **Excused Absences:** Millie Acasio, Madeline Paul, William Liu, Sharon McColl, Donald Steele, Rosemary White-Pope **Staff Present:** Diana Gray, Mona Jagtiani **Guests:** Council member Donna Frye, Pari Sanati-Zaker, Billie Abbott for Millie Acasio, Kevin Casey, Donna Cleary, Paul Downey, Susan Ferguson, Sari Hammerling, Steve Lawrence, Tom Scott

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Floyd Willis moved that the minutes for the August 4, 2005 Senior Affairs Advisory Board meeting be approved as submitted. Sam Duran seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Modifications to the Agenda:**

Donna Cleary a Project Manager for Medicare Access Network is reaching out to seniors to educate them on the benefits of Medicare Part D. The open enrollment period for Medicare Part D is scheduled to begin on November 15, 2005. Medicare Part D is the new prescription drug benefit being promoted by the federal government. To encourage enrollment prior to May 15, 2006, a premium penalty equal to 1% of monthly premium costs will be incurred by those individuals enrolling after the May deadline. This 1% is applied each month an individual delays enrollment into a plan and will be added to monthly premiums for as long as the beneficiary is enrolled in Medicare Part D.

#### **Presentation by Tom Scott, Executive Director of San Diego Housing Federation:**

In 1991, the San Diego Housing Federation was formed to organize and augment the avocation efforts of community groups dedicated to the development of low income housing. On October 21<sup>st</sup> of this year, the San Diego Housing Federation will hold their Annual Conference. Mr. Scott offered to serve on SAAB as an adhoc advisor. San Diego is actually better than most cities in addressing the affordable housing issue. Mr. Scott noted that there was an inherent weakness in Section 8 for seniors. Because the wait for Section 8 housing is 7 to 10 years, most seniors cannot wait that long for housing.

**Introductions** were made at this time.

**Donna Frye (Senior Services/Concerns):**

Mayoral Candidate and Councilmember Donna Frye attended today's Senior Affairs Advisory Board meeting. Ms. Frye is aware of the aging population in San Diego. She shared with SAAB her own personal experience. Council member Frye and her husband have moved in with her mother to assure she has a good quality of life. She expressed her belief that it is important that seniors be allowed to stay in their homes for as long as possible.

The Senior Affairs Advisory Board took this opportunity to share with Ms. Frye the goals and objectives of the board. Board members were also interested to know how the board is viewed by Council. In turn Ms. Frye shared with the board opportunities she believed were available to them to advocate for seniors by being able to provide input on the ground floor to the City's General Plan.

**Mather's Café Concept (Leane Marchese):**

Leane Marchese gave an update on this unique concept for seniors.

**Old Business:**

**Housing Committee (Cheryl Wilson):** Cheryl Wilson reported on the federal legislation introduced by Senator Paul Sarbanes of Maryland, that would establish a high level executive office to better coordinate housing programs and related services so that senior citizens can age in place and access needed related services. This executive office would be an Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors and would be comprised of the Secretaries of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Transportation, Agriculture, Treasury, Labor, Veterans Affairs, the Social Security Administration, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Administration on Aging. All of these entities have programs for seniors.

This Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors would make it easier for seniors and their families to access housing and supportive services by bringing them together. The Council would also make it simpler for developers and providers to link housing and services so that greater housing opportunities are available to the senior population. This would be a model of providing housing and services to seniors around the country.

The Housing Committee drafted a resolution in support of this legislation introduced by Senator Paul Sarbane. This is a long term care integration project which is seen as a vital element to the health and welfare of the growing senior community here in San Diego and world wide. Dolli Cutler moved that the Senior Affairs Advisory Board move forward with the Resolution in support of this legislation creating an Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors. Leane Marchese seconded. The motion carried.

**Transportation Committee (Floyd Willis):** Floyd Willis reported on the status of the Transportation Committee's efforts to network with other agencies. Floyd spoke of the Transportation Committee's need to advocate for the education of area seniors on the area's mass

transit system and its use. This is seen as a critical barrier to the non-use of the mass transit system by seniors because the cost for the monthly senior/disabled pass is \$15.00.

**AIS Advisory Council Report (Dolli Cutler):** Dolli Cutler reported on the September Aging Independent Services (AIS) Advisory Council meeting that she attended. On an annual basis, AIS Advisory Council members meet individually with members of the Board of Supervisors and/or their staff. Dolli Cutler, Jack Duff the AIS Advisory Council Chair, and Bob Prath AIS Advisory Council Co-Chair, met with Pam Slayter-Price's aide Donae Rodriguez. The focus of the meeting was on the Mental Health funding for older adults (Prop 63). Ms. Rodriguez was very supportive of Prop. 63 and she indicated that most members of the Board of Directors also supported Mental Health funding for older adults (Prop. 63).

The Department of Mental Health made a presentation on Prop 63 to the AIS Advisory Council. The AIS Advisory Council has been involved in negotiations regarding the Prop. 63 funding for older adults (a set-aside of Mental Health dollars for specific services aimed at older adults). The plan calls for a set-aside of up to one million dollars for various older adult services, including: mobile outreach to isolated seniors in in-home and to homeless in the community; mental health and substance abuse screening; comprehensive, integrated geriatric assessment, benefit eligibility, information and referral; Linkages, volunteer to peer/family education and support; and a continuum of housing options to include short term, transitional and permanent supported housing services. All of this is still in the planning stages. At least two Adult Day Care Centers plan to submit proposals for grants for this funding when it becomes available.

The AIS Advisory Council work group on Adult Day Health Care will continue to participate in Mental Health meetings focused on the Prop. 63 funding. The AIS Council always receives reports from the various workgroups, including membership; nutrition, transportation, IHSS, CSL, and ADHC Workgroup that she is a member and is heading a subcommittee on public education.

**New Business: None**

**Public Comment:**

None

**Announcement(s):**

The Scroll September/October 2005 issue is now available. Copies are available upon request at your local Park & Recreation Center or you can obtain a copy by calling (619) 236-6905.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

*Next Meeting – Wednesday, October 5, 2005*

*Chairperson: Patrick Ford*

*SAAB website: <http://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/boards-commissions/senior.shtml>*

*City Staff: Diana Gray -- telephone: (619) 533-3913*